

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3873
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2022**

Children dropping out of schools

3873 Shri Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharyya:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of schools merged/closed/consolidated during the preceding three years under the SATH-E (Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital in Education) project, State-wise;
- (b) whether Government has undertaken any estimation/assessment of the number of children dropping out of school as a result of school mergers under the intervention;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, whether Government is planning to undertake any assessment of the number of children dropping out of schools due to the school mergers?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI)**

(a) to (d) : The project SATH (Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital)-Education is being implemented by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the States of Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha. As per the information provided by NITI Aayog, the core objective of the Project SATH-E is to improve learning outcomes of school children without any adverse impact on access or equity. The interventions under Project SATH-E are identified and implemented by the respective States based on their unique requirements. There have been many initiatives undertaken by the State Governments of Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha under Project SATH and school consolidation is one of the initiatives. As per the data provided by the State Governments, 4382 schools, 6969 schools and 35113 schools have been merged/consolidated in Jharkhand, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh respectively. The school consolidation has been done very carefully and it is ensured that access to school is not adversely impacted.
